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PROPOSAL TO THE ACADEMIC SENATE

TITLE: Evaluation of the Senate

SUBMITTED BY: E.E. Beauregard, for the Faculty Board

DATE: April 4, 1986

ACTION IS: Legislative/Consultive

REFERENCE IS: Article VIIB

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSAL:

This document proposes that an ad hoc committee be formed to evaluate the role of the Academic Senate in University governance during the years 1981-1986 and to formulate recommendations, if necessary, to improve that role.

SUGGESTED AREAS OF INVESTIGATION:

By-laws

After almost five years of operation, the Senate needs to govern the internal workings of the body clearly and publicly, particularly in view of its revolving membership. Such by-laws might also:

- clearly delineate the duties of the standing committees, especially the functions of initiating and investigating.
- provide for more University-wide involvement of non-Senate members on committees of the Senate.
- provide a continuing public forum for addressing problem areas of the University.
- clearly specify more aggressive action by the Faculty and Student Affairs Committee in the area of auxiliary services.

Publicity

The Faculty receives information on Senate activities primarily through the publication of the minutes of the Senate and the Executive Committee. The actions of the standing committees, however, are only given in summary form and usually appear after important discussion on relevant issues has already taken place. The '85-'86 Faculty Affairs Committee, for example, met seven times on issues of substantial interest to the Faculty at large but their action went largely unnoticed because of lack of publicity.

Institutional Amendment

Among amendments favored by many faculty is an expansion of the Executive Committee by 5-6 "University Faculty Senators" to be chosen from the entire list of eligible faculty. This would strengthen the Executive Committee by giving a deservedly proportionate voice to those faculty who have earned the University-wide respect of their peers. These Senators could give a sense of continuity to the Executive Committee and provide an improved forum for the President of the University when consulting with the Executive Committee.